

H

U R B A N D I S T R I C T O F T O R P O I N T



T H E
A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E Y E A R
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TORPOINT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The estimated population of No. 7 Health Area on the 30th June, 1972, was 56,480. This represented an increase of 1,290 over the corresponding figure for 1971. In the Liskeard Rural District and the Borough of Saltash the increase was 340, in Torpoint Urban District 280, in St. Germans Rural District 270, and in the Borough of Liskeard 70. In the Looe Urban District an insignificant decrease of 10 in the population was recorded.

Live births registered during 1972 totalled 823, a reduction of 32 on the high figure of the previous year. The corrected birth rate at 16.1 per 1,000 of population was 1.3 per 1,000 above the national rate. Illegitimate births totalled 62 representing 7.5% of all live births, the same percentage as in 1971. The rate for still births was slightly under the national figure and that for infant mortality slightly above the national rate. Of the 16 infants dying under one year of age 9 were lost in the critical first four weeks after birth. No death attributable to maternal causes occurred during the year.

Deaths totalling 781 showed an increase of 2 on the 1971 figure, and produced a corrected rate of 11.5 per 1,000 of population to set against the national rate of 12.1. A breakdown of the principal causes of death again showed heart disease to be the most common cause of death being responsible for 37% of all deaths. Next in order cancer caused 21% of all deaths and as is usual now cancer of the lung and windpipe was the most prevalent single type of that generally fatal disease. Of the 781 persons who died during 1972 some 386 or 49% had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

During 1972 the incidence of notifiable disease was comparatively light with a total of 81 cases being notified. Of this total 70 were due to measles. Of the more serious forms of notifiable disease there was one case only - a meningococcal meningitis. The patient involved suffered a severe fulminating attack of this infection and outcome was unfortunately fatal.

As far as tuberculosis was concerned the year 1972 was an uncommonly good one during which two new cases only were notified. One was a respiratory infection of a 24 year old female, the other a non-respiratory infection of a 91 year old male. During the year 3 deaths were attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. All three persons concerned, two male and one female, were aged 75 years or more at the time of death.

The vital statistics used in making up the Annual Report are received during April and early May of the year following that to which the report refers. Thus the statistics setting out deaths during 1972 were received on the 10th April, 1973 whilst those relating to live births, still births, and infant deaths did not come to hand until the 2nd May, 1973. Until these statistics are received it is not possible to commence the preparation of an Annual Report which would be of any real value to the District Council to which it is addressed, or to those Departments of the Government which receive copies of the Report. However, under arrangements for the restructuring of Local Government the six County District Councils to whom since 1948 I have submitted Annual Reports will at the end of March 1974 cease to exist in their

present form, and their functions and duties will be taken over by the new large Caradon District Council which, already in existence in shadow form, will become fully operative on the 1st April, 1974. At that same time in 1974 the appointment I now hold as Medical Officer of Health will cease to exist. With this combination of circumstances it would seem to me difficult if not impossible, and something of a pointless and un-necessary exercise to produce in the summer of 1974 six Annual Reports for 1973 direct to District Councils which no longer exist. Moreover my personal circumstances are such that if a scheme for early retirement to be operated in conjunction with the National Health Service Reorganisation legislation came in effect, I would very likely retire on or before the 31st March, 1974.

From what I have written in the paragraph immediately preceeding this it appears to me possible and indeed probable that this is the final Annual Report I shall be submitting to you. At the time of writing I have served for just over 25 years as Medical Officer of Health to the six County Districts in South-East Cornwall and it seems an appropriate time to offer to the Members and Officers of those Councils my sincere thanks for the support and understanding I have had from them over the years.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P. J. FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.

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TORPOINT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

General Purposes Committee.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|---------------|
| Councillor J.J. Peach | | | Chairman |
| Councillor R.A. Grinter | | | Vice-Chairman |

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| P.J. Fox, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H. | Medical Officer of Health |
|--|------------------------------|

Health Area Office,
Graylands,
Dean Street,
Liskeard,
Cornwall. PL14 4AZ.

Telephone: Liskeard 43014

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| W. Hogarth, F.F.S., F.R.S.H. | | Public Health Inspector. |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|

Council Offices,
4 York Road,
Torpoint,
Cornwall. PL11 2LE.

Telephone: Torpoint 812410

TORPOINT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Area of Urban District. | 988 acres. |
| Population | 6,600 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses | 1,762 |
| Rateable Value | £198,535 |
| Product of Penny Rate | £1,946 |

Vital Statistics for 1972.

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Live births | 56 | 43 | 99 |
| | <u>Torpoint U.D.</u> | <u>Health Area No. 7.</u> | <u>England & Wales.</u> |
| Birth rate per 1,000 of population. | 14.6 | 16.1 | 14.8 |
| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Still births | - | 1 | 1 |
| | <u>Torpoint U.D.</u> | <u>Health Area No. 7.</u> | <u>England & Wales.</u> |
| Still birth rate per 1,000 total births. | 10.0 | 11.0 | 12.0 |
| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Deaths | 33 | 26 | 59 |
| | <u>Torpoint U.D.</u> | <u>Health Area No. 7.</u> | <u>England & Wales.</u> |
| Death rate per 1,000 of population. | 10.2 | 11.5 | 12.1 |

Principal Causes of Death at All Ages.

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Heart Disease | 29 |
| Cancer (all sites) | 9 |
| Stroke | 9 |
| Respiratory disease | 5 |
| Accidents | 3 |

Although there was a sizeable excess of births over deaths the birth rate dropped noticeably from the high figure of 21.8 recorded in 1971. No infant deaths were registered in 1972. For the second successive year there was a reduction in the number of deaths caused by cancer. Of those who died during the year some 42% had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

Notifiable Disease (other than tuberculosis)

The incidence of this group of diseases was again very light. A total of 15 cases, all due to measles was notified during the year.

Tuberculosis

No new cases of tuberculosis were notified during 1972. At the end of the year 4 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 2 known cases of other forms of tuberculosis were resident in the Urban District.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action under Section 47 of this Act was called for during the year.

Water Supply.

An adequate supply of wholesome water was provided by the East Cornwall Water Board.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Work on the large scheme of sewer laying and the provision of a modern disposal works continued throughout the year.

Refuse Disposal.

Because of difficulty in securing a suitable alternative site, refuse was tipped on a site in a park close to the town, and closer still to a large secondary school. This is obviously an unsatisfactory method of disposing of the town's domestic and trade refuse, but in the absence of any suitable alternative it is difficult to know how the problem can be met and solved.

Food.

Reasonably good standards of hygiene were maintained in food shops and catering establishments. No cases of food poisoning were notified during 1972.

Factories Act, 1961.

No difficulties in the operation of this Act were experienced during the year.

Report of Public Health Inspector.

This report by Mr. Wilson Hogarth follows. I have again to thank Mr. Hogarth for the assistance I have received from him during the year.

Public Health Inspector's Report for 1972.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

During 1972 there was no difficulty with water supplies and no samples were taken on the Council's behalf, but sampling continues to be carried out by the East Cornwall Water Board.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Work has proceeded with the modernisation of the Torpoint sewage works and a complete sewerage system. This has caused a great deal of inconvenience to local residents because of the trenching in public highways and footways, and even in private gardens.

At the site of the sewage works the Contract has now reached its worst stage. The site is exceedingly dirty and confused. Concrete is being poured, pipes are being laid and buildings being erected, but nothing is complete, and many of the parts of the sewage works are still to be begun. I cannot therefore believe that the contractor's promise to have the sewage works in operation by January, 1973, can possibly be kept, and indeed there is already talk of extending his Contract completion date, which is 31st March, 1973, by at least six weeks to take account of the time lost during the builders' strike.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The disposal of refuse continues to be a source of great difficulty and a risk to public health in Torpoint because we are still tipping the town's rubbish in the public park at Thanckes, and the tip face is only a matter of about 300 feet from the senior school. This state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue, and it is hoped that negotiations with the land owners concerned will allow the Council to re-open the tip at Effords Bridge near St. Johns, and this would be the most suitable place, being removed from dwellings. We have a great deal of experience with tipping in this valley as we did so for about eight years, but the Council was eventually compelled to close it down because of the opposition of neighbouring authorities.

Housing.

With the completion of the flats and maisonettes in Harvey/Rowe Street, Council housing in Torpoint has virtually come to an end, but a scheme is being prepared for 20 flats for old people, together with a warden's house, on a small piece of land to the west of Antony Road near to its junction with Trevol Road.

Private enterprise building in this area ceased last year because there is no more land available until the new sewerage scheme is completed and in operation. Small pockets of development are still proceeding, but these are infilling of existing estates, and several dwellings are being built by the people who intend to live in them, but considering both the work in hand by contractors and "do it yourself" housing, there are no more than about four dwellings being built at the present time.

Slum Clearance.

There is no slum clearance problem in Torpoint.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Routine inspections of all offices and shops continue. Generally speaking, defects are remedied by means of a letter of intimation and it has not been necessary during this year for the Council to take any official action.

Shops and Food Premises.

The following is a list of food premises in the Urban District:-

3 Supermarkets
4 Butchers
6 Grocers
2 Bakers and Confectioners
2 Cafes
4 Sweet Shops/Newsagents
2 Greengrocers
2 Fish and Chip Shops

4 Private Clubs

6 Licensed premises.

Several shops are licensed for the sale of ice-cream and five grocers are licensed purveyors of milk.

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are as follows:-

| | |
|---|----|
| Sale of ice-cream | 15 |
| Manufacture and sale of cooked meats | 1 |
| Manufacture and sale of cooked meats and sausages. | 3 |

Three shops are registered for the sale of Cornish cream.

Food Sampling.

No food sampling was done in the Urban District during 1972 because of the lack of the facilities to do so and of the necessary assistance.

In co-operation with the shopkeepers, 167 lb. of cooked ham was surrendered as unfit for human consumption and disposed of, and the same happened to 44 lb. of tinned pork and 6 lb. of corned beef.

Rodent Control.

The control of rodents continues to be necessary on the town's refuse tip but otherwise there is no real infestation. There are occasional complaints from owners or occupiers of dwellings and other premises, and these are dealt with. Four of these small incidents occurred during the year under report, and with regard to sewers, test baiting shows that there are no rats in these.

Vermin.

There were no complaints of verminous premises received during the year.

Public Health Inspections of the Area.

I. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year.

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects under Public Health & Housing Acts. | 13 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. | 24 |
| 2. Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 0 |
| 3. Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 13 |

II. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. | 8 |
|---|---|

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. | 0 |
| 2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | |
| (a) by owners | 0 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners. | 0 |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | 0 |
| 2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | |
| (a) by owners. | 0 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners. | 0 |

(c) Proceedings under Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. | 0 |
| 2. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. | 0 |
| 3. Number of undertakings not to use unfit houses accepted. | 0 |
| 4. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined. | 0 |
| 5. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made. | 0 |



(d) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act,
1957:-

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms
in respect of which Closing Orders were made. 0

2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms
in respect of which Closing Orders were determined,
the tenement rooms having been rendered fit. 0

IV. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV and Housing Act, 1957, Part IV
Overcrowding.

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the
year. 0

2. Number of families dwelling therein. 0

3. Number of persons dwelling therein. 0

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year. 0

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the
year. 0

2. Number of persons concerned in such cases. 0

(a) Drains tested. 35
Number of visits re drainage. 48

(b) Visits re infectious diseases. 0
Premises disinfected. 0

(c) Inspection of Food Premises. 22

(d) Inspection of shops under Shops Act. 8

(e) Inspection of Factories. 2

(f) Preliminary Inspection of houses for slum clearance plan. 0

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the Year 1972 for the Urban District
of Torpoint in the County of Cornwall.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961.

1. Inspection for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

| Premises. (1) | Number on Register (2) | Number of | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Inspections (3) | Written Notices (4) | Occupiers Prosecuted (5) |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises). | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

2. Cases in which defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

| Particulars (1) | No. of cases in which defects were found | | | | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6) |
|---|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | Found (2) | Remedied (3) | Referred | | |
| | | | to H.M. Inspector (4) | by H.M. Inspector (5) | |
| Want of cleanliness (s.1) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Overcrowding (s.2) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Unreasonable temperature (s.3) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate ventilation (s.4) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6) | - | - | - | - | - |

| Particulars (1) | No. of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6) |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| | Found (2) | Remedied (3) | Referred | | |
| | | | to H.M. Inspector (4) | by H.M. Inspector (5) | |
| Sanitary conveniences (s.7) | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| (a) Insufficient. | - | - | - | - | - |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective. | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| (c) Not separate for sexes. | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | - |

Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

There are now twelve outworkers in the Urban District.

APPENDIX 1. PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH - ALL AGES - 1972.

| DISEASE | ST. GERMANS R.D. | LISKEARD R.D. | SALTASH M.B. | TORPOINT U.D. | LISKEARD M.B. | LOOE UD. | HEALTH AREA NO. 7. |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Heart Disease. | 76 | 66 | 47 | 29 | 46 | 27 | 291 (37%) |
| Cancer (all sites) | 51 | 45 | 28 | 9 | 17 | 10 | 160 (21%) |
| Stroke. | 21 | 20 | 23 | 9 | 23 | 10 | 106 (14%) |
| Respiratory disease. | 24 | 16 | 14 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 71 |
| Circulatory disease. | 16 | 10 | 3 | - | 6 | 7 | 42 |
| Accidents. | 6 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 28 # |
| Digestive disease | 3 | 6 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 12 |

includes 10 motor vehicle accidents.

APPENDIX 2. TYPES OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER CAUSING DEATH - 1972.

| TYPE OF DISEASE | ST. GERMANS R.D. | LISKEARD R.D. | SALTASH M.B. | TORPOINT U.D. | LISKEARD M.B. | LOOE U.D. | HEALTH AREA NO. 7. |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Ischaemic heart disease. | 60. | 64 | 37 | 22 | 44 | 20 | 247 |
| Rheumatic heart disease. | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Hypertensive disease. | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 7 |
| Other heart disease. | 9 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 29 |
| Cancer of lung/bronchus | 7 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 33 |
| Cancer of intestine | 8 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 25 |
| Cancer of stomach | 6 | 4 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 13 |
| Cancer of breast | 5 | 4 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 13 |
| Cancer of uterus | 6 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 8 |
| Other cancers | 19 | 18 | 15 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 68 |

APPENDIX 3. DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1972.

| DISTRICT. | 0-4 years | 5-14 years | 15-44 years | 45-64 years | 65-74 years | 75 years and over | All ages. |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| ST. GERMANS R.D. | 5 | 1 | 4 | 42 | 53 | 114 | 219 |
| LISKEARD R.D. | 1 | - | 6 | 40 | 60 | 85 | 192 |
| SALTASH M.B. | 11 | - | 4 | 22 | 28 | 69 | 134 |
| TORPOINT U.D. | - | 1 | 2 | 16 | 15 | 25 | 59 |
| LISKEARD M.B. | 3 | - | 4 | 14 | 25 | 69 | 115 |
| LOOE U.D. | - | - | 1 | 14 | 23 | 24 | 62 |
| HEALTH AREA NO. 7. | 20 | 2 | 21 | 148 | 204 | 386 (49%) | 781 |

APPENDIX 4.TUBERCULOSIS.NEW CASES IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1972.

| <u>AGE GROUPS.</u> | <u>MALES</u> | <u>FEMALES</u> | <u>PERSONS.</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 0 - 4 years | - | - | - |
| 5 - 14 years | - | - | - |
| 15 - 24 years | - | 1 | 1 |
| 25 - 44 years | - | - | - |
| 45 - 64 years | - | - | - |
| 65 years and over | 1 | - | 1 |
| | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> |

| | <u>MALES</u> | <u>FEMALES</u> | <u>PERSONS</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| New case rate per 1,000 of population | 0.018 | 0.018 | 0.036 |

CASE RATES AND MORTALITY RATES IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1972.

| <u>DISTRICT</u> | <u>NEW CASES</u> | <u>ALL KNOWN CASES</u> | <u>DEATHS</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| St. Germans R.D. | - | 0.84 | - |
| Liskeard R.D. | - | 0.61 | - |
| Saltash M.B. | 0.19 | 1.07 | 0.10 |
| Torpoint U.D. | - | 0.90 | 0.15 |
| Liskeard M.B. | - | 1.13 | 0.19 |
| Looe U.D. | - | 1.24 | - |
| Health Area No. 7. | 0.04 | 0.89 | 0.05 |
| Cornwall County | 0.17 | 2.09 | 0.03 |

APPENDIX 5CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS
DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1972

| <u>AGE GROUP</u> | <u>MALES</u> | <u>FEMALES</u> | <u>PERSONS</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 35 - 44 years | 1 | - | 1 |
| 45 - 54 years | 1 | - | 1 |
| 55 - 64 years | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| 65 - 74 years | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| 75 years and over | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| | <u>25</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>33</u> |

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION - 1972.

| | <u>MALES</u> | <u>FEMALES</u> | <u>PERSONS</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Health Area No. 7. | 0.443 | 0.142 | 0.585 |
| Cornwall County | 0.412 | 0.130 | 0.542 |
| England and Wales | 0.525 | 0.120 | 0.645 |

